

From: Brenden Ashton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 2:26am
Subject: Please do not cave in

Hi,

I am writing this email because I am concerned about the 'remedies' that have been proposed in the anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft. I feel that the DOJ has caved in, and is allowing Microsoft to get away with illegal practices, and is in fact allowing Microsoft to continue these practices.

Over the last few years I have bought numerous computers and have been forced to buy yet another copy of Microsoft's operating systems each time, despite the fact that the old computers are sitting in a cupboard. In addition I feel that Microsoft's bundling of Internet Explorer as part of the operating system was a deliberate attempt by Microsoft to eliminate competition. This practice of Microsoft is not new - it has in the past made sure that some of its software would not run if competitor's software was detected (e.g. DRDOS and MS-Word). Also, this practice is still continuing, for example Windows XP has a lot of bundled software (CD writing software, media players etc) that will make life difficult for Microsoft's competitors in this area.

I think that not only Microsoft should pay a huge penalty for doing the things it has done in the past, afterall they did make piles of money this way, but that Microsoft should be prevented from continuing in these practices. The proposed remedies do not make Microsoft pay any penalty for its past actions and the limitations on its future practices are very weak. It would be easy for Microsoft to continue its business practices under the proposed remedies as they leave Microsoft many loopholes.

Thanks for listening to my rant,

Dr Brenden Ashton